



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

25 February 2012

TO: POST Director, Wayne Ternes

FR: Frank Bowen

RE: **MIKE SARGEANT: Case Report Number FG 112-082810-1**

Multiple Fish and Game Violations which are beyond the statute of limitations / Possible Felony Unlawful Possession of Game Animals / Possible Obstructing Justice / Possible Felony Evidence Tampering / Possible Conspiracy

Subject:

Michael Eugene Sargeant

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

OLN: [REDACTED]

Polson, MT 59860-2425

Note: Sargeant has been contacted by investigators, and has refused to make any statements about allegations concerning himself or others.

Witnesses:

Frank Bowen
Montana State Game Warden



Narrative:

Mike Sargeant, (Sargeant), has been a central figure in our investigation into what has become known as the, "Coyote Club". Though our investigation, we have found many allegations of criminal fish and game activity on the part of Sargeant, his friends and co-workers. Most of the allegations which FWP Investigators feel confident they can prove, are outside of the statute of limitations. There are, however, some allegations against Sargeant that could be charged, if further evidence can be obtained.

The purpose of this document is to inform POST of the allegations against Sargeant. Considering that the allegations and statements taken which incriminate Sargeant are many, this document will be broken into two segments. The statements / allegations which are outside of the statute of limitations; and the allegations that could still result in criminal charges against Sargeant should further evidence be developed.

Allegations which are beyond the statute of limitations:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Hunting During a Closed Season: | 87-6-204 MCA |
| 2. Hunting Without a License: | 87-6-301 MCA |
| 3. Unlawful Possession / Transportation: | 87-6-202 MCA |
| 4. Tagging Offenses: | 87-6-411 MCA |
| 5. Unlawful Use of Vehicle While Hunting: | 87-6-405 MCA |
| 6. Violation of FWP Commission Regulations: | 87-6-201 MCA |
| 7. Unlawful Use of Equipment While Hunting: | 87-6-401 MCA |
| 8. Fail To Obtain Landowner Permission: | 87-6-415 MCA |
| 9. Waste Of a Game Animal: | 87-6-205 MCA |

Attachments:

- Case Overview / Interview of Terry Leonard and [redacted] 28 August 2010
- Case Report and Interview of Rick Schoening / 20 April 2005 / 31 August 2010
- Interview of Levi Reid / 31 August 2010
- Interview of Ben Woods / 31 August 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 03 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 03 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 03 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 03 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 03 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 06 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 07 September 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 04 September 2010
- Interview of Jason Našn / 07 September 2010

- Interview of [redacted] / 06 November 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 19 December 2010
- Interview of Grant Holle / 03 November 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 06 November 2010
- Interview of [redacted] / 09 February 2012
- Interview of [redacted] / 25 February 2012
- Investigation of Tribal Officer Jason Nash letter to CSKT Tribe
- FWP Letter to POST / 20 September 2010
- Subject Background / Michael Sargeant
- Taxidermist Records

Allegations that could still result in criminal charges:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Unlawful Possession / Transportation: | 87-6-202 MCA |
| 2. Tampering With Evidence: | 45-7-206 MCA |
| 3. Obstructing Justice: | 45-7-303 MCA |
| 4. Conspiracy: | 45-4-102 MCA |

Attachments:

1. See Case Report: Ryan Funke / Tampering with Evidence
2. See Case Report: Jason Nash / Obstructing Justice / Conspiracy
3. See Case Report: State V Jesse Jacobs



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ENFORCEMENT



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

WARDEN	Frank Bowen	DATE	30 August 2010
CASE REFERENCE	Coyote Club	FWP CASE #	112-082810-1
CASE WARDEN	Frank Bowen	Report Reference	Intel from Alaska State Trooper Lance Ewers

Narrative:

On 30 August 2010, I contacted Alaskan State Trooper Lance Ewers to discuss the Coyote Club.

Lance Ewers

Lance told me the following:

- Lance worked as a Lake County Deputy from Jan 2000 till April 2009
- When Lance first hired on with Lake County, he lived with Deputy Dan Duryee.
- Lance sometimes did ride-a-longs with Duryee.
- Duryee told Lance about the Coyote Club, and tried to get him into the club.
- The only other Coyote Club member's name that Duryee would tell Lance was Mike Sargeant.
- At that time, Mike Sargeant rented a home on Finley Point from [REDACTED] Lance saw a shed on that property that was full of wildlife heads and antlers. Lance knew Sargeant had come to Montana from Florida not long ago, and felt that there was no way Sargeant could have gotten all of those wildlife parts legally.
- The Coyote Club members would carry handheld radios while hunting so they could avoid other LE patrols.

- Tribal Member and Tribal Officer Jason Nash would take the illegal animals to the taxidermist for the Coyote Club.
- Lance knew of large / trophy class white-tails taken by club members.
- Lance was never with them when they shot an illegal animal.
- The policy of the Club was to get others, "Dirty", before they would let them into the club. That way, they could not testify against other club members without incriminating themselves.
- Lance rode one night with Duryee with the idea of shooting an illegal animal. Fortunately, they did not see anything that night. The fear of how close he had come to joining the club scared Lance. He moved away from Duryee's place and never joined the club. This made Duryee very mad.
- Duryee actually assaulted Lance one day at the Sheriff's Office. Lance was in uniform and Duryee grabbed him by the throat trying to choke him. Lance stated that Sherriff Bill Barron was present for the assault, and did nothing. Duryee was not even reprimanded.
- Lance's FTO tried to extend Lance's probation period because he was not part of the club, and therefore not trustworthy. One of the detectives overrode the attempt to extend Lance's probation.
- [REDACTED] should have more firsthand knowledge of the Coyote Club. She is the daughter of former / deceased Detective [REDACTED] and was intimate with both Dan Duryee and Mike Sargeant. He believed she lived with Sargeant at the Finley Point residence for awhile.
- Lance left Lake County Sherriff's Office largely due to the corruption that was rampant there.
- Lance was aware of a missing shotgun from the Sherriff's Office, and he had seen Dan Duryee with that shotgun.

Case Report

On April 20th, 2005 at 18:00 hrs, I was contacted by [redacted] about an incident involving his old boss. [redacted] was recently fired from his Student Resource Officer's job with the Ronan School District. [redacted] had worked for the Lake County Sheriff's office as a deputy for many years. [redacted] is one of our hunter safety instructors. The official reason for his dismissal was for violating the schools computer policy. He surfed E-bay, fantasy football, with lot's of private business done on the school's computer.

Undersheriff, Mike Sargent is the person in question. Sargent moved here from Florida about 7 years ago. He is very much into the hunting of big game. He drew a moose permit the first year of his residency, which upset some of his fellow officers. They felt he hadn't met the residency requirements, but he did.

Sargent became friends with a tribal police officer named Jason Nash. ~~Nash and Sargent did a lot of riding around together in the tribal patrol car. Numerous complaints from landowners were filed by me.~~ Sargent and Nash had a habit of spotlighting to locate large buck white-tailed deer, that Nash would shoot the next morning. During their relationship, a large white-tailed buck was harvested by Sargent and subsequently mounted and displayed in his office. When asked where he shot the deer, he would say, "in the Swan". A very large bull elk, was supposedly shot by Sargent, during the archery season, also in the Swan.

The story goes as follows; The white-tailed buck was shot at night with a spotlight out of a Lake County patrol car. [redacted] was in the vehicle when this happened. Cannon is now a Flathead County Dispatcher. Her father recently passed away and was a detective for the Lake County Sheriff's office. Before being a detective, her father was a highly decorated New Hampshire game warden. [redacted] supposedly threw a fit when Sargent shot the buck. Sargent used a suppressed .223 assault type weapon most likely owned by the sheriff's department.

The bull elk was supposedly shot with a rifle during the archery season up on Jette Mountain above Walstead fishing access site within the reservation boundary. Sargent has never shown any interest in archery during conversations. No archery items are seen on display in his office or personal vehicle. No archery target has been seen in his back yard. No check of whether or not he has ever purchased an archery stamp has been done.

~~Sargent did have a huge mule deer buck head in his office for a while that he supposedly shot. I heard from the taxidermist that Nash actually shot it and Sargent bought it from him and told everyone that he (Sargent) had shot it.~~

Sargent keeps and breeds venomous snakes. His brother is a world authority in them.

~~I spoke with Sheriff Bill Baron about the complaints I had been getting about Sargent's association with Nash. Baron agreed with me that it needed to stop. I also spoke with~~

~~tribal police chief Ron McCrae about the complaints I had been getting about his officer,~~
~~Nash. McCrae knew about the problem and was planning on putting a stop to it.~~ For the
last five years, I have not had any complaints about Sargent being with Nash, nor any
complaints about Nash hunting out of his tribal patrol car.

Submitted by;
Warden Rick Schoening
4/25/05



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ENFORCEMENT



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

WARDEN	Frank Bowen	DATE	28 August 2010
CASE REFERENCE	Coyote Club	FWP CASE #	112-082810-1
CASE WARDEN	Frank Bowen	Report Reference	Interview of [redacted] t and [redacted]

Narrative:

For years, there have been rumors in the Polson District about the, "Coyote Club". The Coyote Club was said to be an organized group of local Law Enforcement Officers who illegally took wildlife from the Flathead Indian reservation. They were said to hunt from their L.E. Patrol vehicle while on night shift. The Officers involved were said to be from Lake County Sheriff's Office, Polson Police Department, and the CSKT Tribal Police.

A few years ago, Tribal Game Warden / Investigator, Mike McElderry, had heard rumors of Indian Officer, (IO), Jason Nash, being a member of the Coyote Club. After speaking with Chief of Tribal Police, Craig Couture, McElderry confronted IO Nash with what he had been hearing. McElderry told Nash that if the rumors were true, and Nash were caught hunting illegally, McElderry would make sure he lost his job as a Peace Officer. Nash, told McElderry that there would be no future problems, and the issue seemed to go away.

A few years ago, then Polson District FWP Game Warden, Rick Schoening, informed then FWP Game Warden Captain Ed Kelly that he had been hearing similar rumors about Lake County Deputy, Mike Sergeant. Schoening had heard that the daughter of Lake County Detective, [redacted], [redacted] had been with Deputy Sergeant when he shot a deer from his patrol car using a spotlight.

Schoening stated that Captain Kelly told him not to investigate the case any further. Schoening did share his concerns with then Sherriff, Bill Barron, and then Tribal Chief of Police, Ron McCrea

On 19 April 2010, FWP Game Warden Frank Bowen, began an investigation into the illegal hunting activities of Lake County Reserve Deputy, [REDACTED] was said to be a member of the Coyote Club, hunting partner and close friend of Detective Mike Sergeant. In August 2010, the Montana Attorney General's Office filed 2 felony charges against [REDACTED] in District Court in Flathead County Montana.

In August 2010, McElderry and Bowen began to hear rumors that members of the Coyote Club where removing a large number of illegal game animal parts for the residence of Mike Sergeant. It was reported that IO Jason Nash, and Lake County Deputy Ryan Funke removed those mounts.

In May 2010, POST Director Wayne Ternes, spoke at the Montana Game Warden Seminar in Helena Montana. During that presentation Ternes spoke of a Lake County Officer that was being investigated by POST for making claims of being a Military Veteran, when it fact he was not. That Officer turned out to be Deputy Dan Duryee. Duryee was also rumored to be a member of the Coyote Club. In August 2010, Duryee went before the POST Council to answer the charges against him. As a consequence of that hearing, Duryee was suspended by Lake County Sheriff, Lucky Larson. During the investigation into Officer Duryee, many questions and allegations surfaced about the Coyote Club. Those allegations where passed from POST, to FWP to consider if an investigation should be conducted.

On 28 August 2010, Bowen met with FWP Game Warden Captain Lee Anderson. Anderson Briefed Bowen on the above information. Bowen spoke with CSKT Investigator Mike McElderry, and an interview with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was arranged.

On 28 August 2010, Bowen and McElderry met with [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] residence in St Ignatius Montana.

Home [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]

Cell [REDACTED]

During that interview, Leonard did most of the talking. Leonard stated that he had been a Lake County Reserve Officer, but quit under protest at the way business was conducted by the Sheriff's Office. Leonard stated he had tried to bring attention to some of the illegal activities conducted by local Law Enforcement, but had no success. Leonard verified much of the information stated above, and said that he was the primary witness and instigator of the POST case against Officer Duryee. Leonard told us that he had tried to bring to light concerns about the accidental death of Officer Ed Todd's wife during an LE party / picnic on Flathead Lake a few years ago. Leonard stated that there was an active cover-up by then Lake County Sherriff, Bill Barron, to cover the fact that those involved in the accident where intoxicated at the time. Leonard told of writing letters to Montana Senators and the Governor's Office to request an investigation into missing equipment / ammo from the Sherriff's Office. That investigation was conducted, but no charges were filed. Leonard had drafted articles in the local paper to try and bring his concerns to light.

[redacted] told us that he too had many concerns about the way business was conducted at the Lake County Sherriff's Office. He had been a Reserve Deputy and had resigned from that position. [redacted] currently is the owner / operator of a radio repair business and still works closely with local LE. Thru his business, he has heard many stories about the Coyote Club and wanted to help bring that activity to an end. [redacted] is a pilot and owner of multiple aircraft. He offered to fly investigators to Alaska to talk with an individual that could shed a lot of light on this investigation.

Both [redacted] and Leonard told us that they had no first hand information about any illegal activity. Both stated that they had talked to other Officers that were concerned about what was taking place, but those Officers did not want to make an issue of it in fear of reprisal. [redacted] and Leonard hoped that this interview, the POST hearing, and the current felony case against one of the Coyote Club members would be enough to get an investigation started.

McElderry and Bowen were told that suspects in this case were:

Jason Nash

Tribal IO

Jay Doyle

Lake County Under-Sherriff

Mike Sergeant	Lt. Lake County Sherriff's Department
Wade Nash	Sergeant, Polson City Police
Dan Duryee	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy
Ryan Funke	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy
Corey Anderson	Polson Police Department
Nate Lundeen	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy

McElderry and Bowen were told that those having information regarding this case were:

Lance Ewers	Former Lake County Sherriff's Deputy / Now an Alaskan State Trooper
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Levi Reid	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy
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Ben Woods	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy
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Former girlfriend of Mike Sargeant, and Dan Duryee.

Ex-wife of Deputy Duryee.

Ryan Funke	Lake County Sherriff's Deputy / New member to club and one who removed evidence from the residence of Mike Sergeant / thought to be someone that would give information.
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McElderry and Bowen were told that IO Nash, and Deputy Funke were the ones who recently removed all of the evidence from the residence of Detective Mike Sergeant. They did not know where the evidence / wildlife parts were moved to.

On 29 August 2010, Leonard forwarded an article that he had published in the local paper under the name of, "Concerned Citizen", and the reply from Deputy Mike Sergeant. He also gave me the contact information for Deputy Ben Woods.

Case Report

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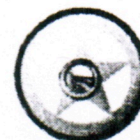
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Submitted by;
Warden Rick Schoening
4/25/05



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ENFORCEMENT



INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

WARDEN	Frank Bowen	DATE	09 February 2012
CASE REFERENCE	Coyote Club	FWP CASE #	112-082810-1
CASE WARDEN	Frank Bowen	Report Reference	Phone Conversation with

Narrative:

On 09 February 2012, I spoke on the phone with [REDACTED]. I had conducted an interview with [REDACTED] several months earlier, in which he supplied information regarding members on the Coyote Club [REDACTED] the former husband of [REDACTED]. They are divorced.

[REDACTED] has particular interest in Lake County Detective Mike Sargeant. He believes Sargeant is having an affair / relationship with [REDACTED]. He sees that as a conflict of interest, and something that needs to be addressed by the Board of Judicial Misconduct.

On this day, we talked about his suspicion that the mounts / wildlife parts / items, which were removed from the residence of Mike Sargeant by Jason Nash and Ryan Funke, were now in boxes in the garage of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] This is an allegation that I have heard before. When asked why he believed that those items were in [REDACTED] garage, [REDACTED] stated the following:

- When married to [REDACTED] he believed her to be a neat-freak who hated the clutter that he had around the house. It was one of the things that separated them. He kept things in boxes stacked everywhere, and she only wanted things that were stored neatly in plastic tote containers.
- On a trip to [REDACTED] house, he noticed that the garage was full of large boxes. Those boxes were large enough to contain the mounts that were removed from Sargeant's home.

- Sargeant spends lots of time at [REDACTED]'s residence. He has been seen standing in the garage in the early mornings in what appears to be his pajamas; [REDACTED] denies that they are more than friends, but the kids say he is always there, and has spent the night.
- In the summer of 2010, [REDACTED] cleaned out the garage, and removed all of the things she believed to be, "clutter". [REDACTED] asked her to return anything that was his, but everything was thrown away.
- According to [REDACTED] children with [REDACTED], about March of 2011, the garage was again filled. Only this time, it was filled with large boxes. When asked, the kids told [REDACTED] that they did not know what was in the boxes.
- [REDACTED] stated that he believed that those boxes contained the items that were removed from Sargeant's residence in an effort to hide them from FWP Investigators.